

FEB 25 2020

JAMES N. HATTEN, Clerk
Deputy Clerk

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
ATLANTA DIVISION

IN RE EQUIFAX INC. SECURITIES
LITIGATION

Consolidated Case No.
1:17-cv-03463-TWT

**PROPOSED ORDER PRELIMINARILY APPROVING SETTLEMENT
AND AUTHORIZING DISSEMINATION OF NOTICE OF SETTLEMENT**

WHEREAS, a consolidated securities class action is pending in this Court entitled *In re Equifax Inc. Securities Litigation*, Consolidated Case No. 1:17-cv-03463-TWT (the “Action”);

WHEREAS, (a) lead plaintiff Union Asset Management Holding AG (“Lead Plaintiff”), on behalf of itself and the Settlement Class (defined below); and (b) defendants Equifax Inc. (“Equifax” or the “Company”) and Richard F. Smith (“Smith” and, together with Equifax, “Defendants”) (Lead Plaintiff and Defendants, collectively, the “Parties”), have determined to settle and dismiss with prejudice all claims asserted in this Action on the terms and conditions set forth in the Stipulation and Agreement of Settlement dated February 12, 2020 (the “Stipulation”) subject to approval of this Court (the “Settlement”);

WHEREAS, Lead Plaintiff has made a motion, pursuant to Rule 23(e)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, for an order preliminarily approving the Settlement in accordance with the Stipulation and allowing notice to Settlement Class Members as more fully described herein;

WHEREAS, the Court has read and considered: (a) Lead Plaintiff's motion for preliminary approval of the Settlement and authorization to send notice of the Settlement to the Settlement Class, and the papers filed and arguments made in connection therewith; and (b) the Stipulation and the exhibits attached thereto; and

WHEREAS, unless otherwise defined herein, all capitalized words contained herein shall have the same meanings as they have in the Stipulation;

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. **Proposed Class Certification for Settlement Purposes** – The Parties have proposed the certification of the following Settlement Class pursuant to Rule 23(a) and (b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and solely for purposes of effectuating the proposed Settlement: all persons and entities who purchased or otherwise acquired publicly-traded Equifax common stock during the period from February 25, 2016 through September 15, 2017, inclusive (the “Class Period”), and who were damaged thereby (the “Settlement Class”). Excluded from the Settlement Class are: (i) the Defendants and Former Defendants; (ii) any current or

former Officers or directors of Equifax who served in such capacities during the Class Period; (iii) the Immediate Family Members of Defendant Smith, the Former Defendants, or any current or former Officer or director of Equifax who served in such capacities during the Class Period; (iv) any entity that any Defendant or Former Defendant owns or controls, or owned or controlled during the Class Period; (v) any affiliates, parents, or subsidiaries of Equifax; and (vi) the legal representatives, heirs, successors, and assigns of any such excluded persons and entities. Also excluded from the Settlement Class are any persons or entities who or which exclude themselves by submitting a request for exclusion that is accepted by the Court.

2. **Class Findings** – The Court finds, pursuant to Rule 23(e)(1)(B)(ii) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, that it will likely be able to certify the Settlement Class for purposes of the proposed Settlement. Specifically, and solely for purposes of the proposed Settlement of this Action, the Court finds that each element required for certification of the Settlement Class pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure has been met or will likely be met: (a) the members of the Settlement Class are so numerous that their joinder in the Action would be impracticable; (b) there are questions of law and fact common to the Settlement Class which predominate over any individual questions; (c) the claims

of Lead Plaintiff in the Action are typical of the claims of the Settlement Class; (d) Lead Plaintiff and Lead Counsel have and will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the Settlement Class; and (e) a class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the Action.

3. The Court also finds, pursuant to Rule 23(e)(1)(B)(ii) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and for the purposes of the Settlement only, that it will likely be able to certify Lead Plaintiff Union Asset Management Holding AG as Class Representative for the Settlement Class and appoint Lead Counsel Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossmann LLP as Class Counsel for the Settlement Class pursuant to Rule 23(g) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

4. **Preliminary Approval of the Settlement** – The Court hereby preliminarily approves the Settlement, as embodied in the Stipulation, and finds, pursuant to Rule 23(e)(1)(B)(i) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, that it will likely be able to finally approve the Settlement under Rule 23(e)(2) as being fair, reasonable, and adequate to the Settlement Class, subject to further consideration at the Settlement Fairness Hearing to be conducted as described below.

5. **Settlement Fairness Hearing** – The Court will hold a settlement hearing (the “Settlement Fairness Hearing”) on June 26, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. in Courtroom 2108 of the Richard B. Russell Federal Building and

United States Courthouse, 75 Ted Turner Drive, SW, Atlanta, GA 30303, for the following purposes: (a) to determine whether the proposed Settlement on the terms and conditions provided for in the Stipulation is fair, reasonable, and adequate to the Settlement Class, and should be finally approved by the Court; (b) to determine whether, for purposes of the Settlement only, the Action should be certified as a class action on behalf of the Settlement Class, Lead Plaintiff should be certified as Class Representative for the Settlement Class, and Lead Counsel should be appointed as Class Counsel for the Settlement Class; (c) to determine whether a Judgment substantially in the form attached as Exhibit B to the Stipulation should be entered dismissing the Action with prejudice against Defendants; (d) to determine whether the proposed Plan of Allocation for the proceeds of the Settlement is fair and reasonable and should be approved; (e) to determine whether the motion by Lead Counsel for an award of attorneys' fees and payment of Litigation Expenses should be approved; and (f) to consider any other matters that may properly be brought before the Court in connection with the Settlement. Notice of the Settlement and the Settlement Fairness Hearing shall be given to Settlement Class Members as set forth in paragraph 7 of this Order.

6. The Court may adjourn the Settlement Fairness Hearing without further notice to the Settlement Class, and may approve the proposed Settlement

with such modifications as the Parties may agree to, if appropriate, without further notice to the Settlement Class.

7. **Retention of Claims Administrator and Manner of Giving Notice**

– Lead Counsel is hereby authorized to retain JND Legal Administration (the “Claims Administrator”) to supervise and administer the notice procedure in connection with the proposed Settlement as well as the processing of Claims as more fully set forth below. Notice of the Settlement and the Settlement Fairness Hearing shall be given by Lead Counsel as follows:

(a) Not later than ten (10) business days after the date of entry of this Order, Equifax shall, at no cost to the Settlement Fund, Lead Counsel, or the Claims Administrator, provide or cause to be provided to the Claims Administrator in electronic format its security lists containing names, mailing addresses, and, if readily available, email addresses, of the purchasers of Equifax common stock during the Class Period;

(b) not later than twenty (20) business days after the date of entry of this Order (such date that is twenty (20) business days after the date of entry of this Order, the “Notice Date”), the Claims Administrator shall cause a copy of the Notice and the Claim Form, substantially in the forms attached hereto as Exhibits 1 and 2, respectively (the “Notice Packet”), to be mailed by first-class mail and/or

emailed to potential Settlement Class Members at the addresses set forth in the records provided by Equifax or in the records which Equifax caused to be provided, or who otherwise may be identified through further reasonable effort;

(c) contemporaneously with the mailing of the Notice Packet, the Claims Administrator shall cause copies of the Notice and the Claim Form to be posted on a website to be developed for the Settlement, from which copies of the Notice and Claim Form can be downloaded;

(d) not later than ten (10) business days after the Notice Date, the Claims Administrator shall cause the Summary Notice, substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit 3, to be published once in the *Wall Street Journal* and to be transmitted once over the *PR Newswire*; and

(e) not later than seven (7) calendar days prior to the Settlement Fairness Hearing, Lead Counsel shall serve on Defendants' Counsel and file with the Court proof, by affidavit or declaration, of such mailing and publication.

8. **Approval of Form and Content of Notice** – The Court (a) approves, as to form and content, the Notice, the Claim Form, and the Summary Notice, attached hereto as Exhibits 1, 2, and 3, respectively, and (b) finds that the mailing and distribution of the Notice and Claim Form and the publication of the Summary Notice in the manner and form set forth in paragraph 7 of this Order (i) is the best

notice practicable under the circumstances; (ii) constitutes notice that is reasonably calculated, under the circumstances, to apprise Settlement Class Members of the pendency of the Action, of the effect of the proposed Settlement (including the Releases to be provided thereunder), of Lead Counsel's motion for an award of attorneys' fees and Litigation Expenses, of their right to object to the Settlement, the Plan of Allocation, and/or Lead Counsel's motion for attorneys' fees and Litigation Expenses, of their right to exclude themselves from the Settlement Class, and of their right to appear at the Settlement Fairness Hearing; (iii) constitutes due, adequate, and sufficient notice to all persons and entities entitled to receive notice of the proposed Settlement; and (iv) satisfies the requirements of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the United States Constitution (including the Due Process Clause), the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4, as amended, and all other applicable law and rules. The date and time of the Settlement Fairness Hearing shall be included in the Notice and Summary Notice before they are mailed and published, respectively.

9. **Nominee Procedures** – Brokers and other nominees who purchased or otherwise acquired publicly-traded Equifax common stock during the Class Period for the benefit of another person or entity shall: (a) within seven (7)

calendar days of receipt of the Notice, request from the Claims Administrator sufficient copies of the Notice Packet to forward to all such beneficial owners, and within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of those Notice Packets forward them to all such beneficial owners; or (b) within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of the Notice, send a list of the names, mailing addresses, and, if available, email addresses, of all such beneficial owners to the Claims Administrator in which event the Claims Administrator shall promptly mail or email the Notice Packet to such beneficial owners. Upon full compliance with this Order, such nominees may seek payment of their reasonable expenses actually incurred in complying with this Order by providing the Claims Administrator with proper documentation supporting the expenses for which reimbursement is sought. Such properly documented expenses incurred by nominees in compliance with the terms of this Order shall be paid from the Settlement Fund, with any disputes as to the reasonableness or documentation of expenses incurred subject to review by the Court.

10. **CAFA Notice** – As provided in the Stipulation, Defendants shall serve the notice required under the Class Action Fairness Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1715, *et seq.* (“CAFA”) no later than ten (10) calendar days following the filing of the Stipulation with the Court. Defendants are solely responsible for the costs of the

CAFA notice and administering the CAFA notice. No later than seven (7) calendar days before the Settlement Fairness Hearing, Defendants shall cause to be served on Lead Counsel and filed with the Court proof, by affidavit or declaration, regarding compliance with the notice requirements of CAFA.

11. **Participation in the Settlement** – Settlement Class Members who wish to participate in the Settlement and to be eligible to receive a distribution from the Net Settlement Fund must complete and submit a Claim Form in accordance with the instructions contained therein. Unless the Court orders otherwise, all Claim Forms must be postmarked no later than one hundred twenty (120) calendar days after the Notice Date. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Lead Counsel may, at its discretion, accept for processing late Claims provided such acceptance does not delay the distribution of the Net Settlement Fund to the Settlement Class. By submitting a Claim, a person or entity shall be deemed to have submitted to the jurisdiction of the Court with respect to his, her, or its Claim and the subject matter of the Settlement.

12. Each Claim Form submitted must satisfy the following conditions: (a) it must be properly completed, signed, and submitted in a timely manner in accordance with the provisions of the preceding paragraph; (b) it must be accompanied by adequate supporting documentation for the transactions and

holdings reported therein, in the form of broker confirmation slips, broker account statements, an authorized statement from the broker containing the transactional and holding information found in a broker confirmation slip or account statement, or such other documentation as is deemed adequate by Lead Counsel or the Claims Administrator; (c) if the person executing the Claim Form is acting in a representative capacity, a certification of his, her, or its current authority to act on behalf of the Settlement Class Member must be included in the Claim Form to the satisfaction of Lead Counsel or the Claims Administrator; and (d) the Claim Form must be complete and contain no material deletions or modifications of any of the printed matter contained therein and must be signed under penalty of perjury. For purposes of carrying out its duties in the administration of the Settlement, the Claims Administrator may require Claimants to provide certain personal information in their Claim Forms, including (without limitation): full name, street address, phone number, and (for Claimants which are not natural persons) the last four (4) digits of any applicable Taxpayer Identification Number.

13. Any Settlement Class Member that does not timely and validly submit a Claim Form or whose Claim is not otherwise approved by the Court: (a) shall be deemed to have waived his, her, or its right to share in the Net Settlement Fund; (b) shall be forever barred from participating in any distributions therefrom;

(c) shall be bound by the provisions of the Stipulation and the Settlement and all proceedings, determinations, orders, and judgments in the Action relating thereto, including, without limitation, the Judgment or Alternate Judgment, if applicable, and the Releases provided for therein, whether favorable or unfavorable to the Settlement Class; and (d) will be barred from commencing, maintaining, or prosecuting any of the Released Plaintiff's Claims against each and all of the Defendants' Releasees, as more fully described in the Stipulation and Notice. Notwithstanding the foregoing, late Claim Forms may be accepted for processing as set forth in paragraph 11 above.

14. **Exclusion From the Settlement Class** – Any member of the Settlement Class who wishes to exclude himself, herself, or itself from the Settlement Class must request exclusion in writing within the time and in the manner set forth in the Notice, which shall provide that: (a) any such request for exclusion from the Settlement Class must be mailed or delivered such that it is received no later than twenty-one (21) calendar days prior to the Settlement Fairness Hearing, to: Equifax Securities Litigation, EXCLUSIONS, c/o JND Legal Administration, PO Box 91319, Seattle, WA 98111, and (b) each request for exclusion must (i) state the name, address, and telephone number of the person or entity requesting exclusion, and in the case of entities, the name and telephone

number of the appropriate contact person; (ii) state that such person or entity “requests exclusion from the Settlement Class in *In re Equifax Inc. Securities Litigation*, Case No. 1:17-cv-03463-TWT”; (iii) state the number of shares of publicly-traded Equifax common stock that the person or entity requesting exclusion (A) owned as of the opening of trading on February 25, 2016 and (B) purchased/acquired and/or sold during the Class Period, as well as the dates, number of shares, and prices of each such purchase/acquisition and sale; and (iv) be signed by the person or entity requesting exclusion or an authorized representative. A request for exclusion shall not be effective unless it provides all the required information and is received within the time stated above, or is otherwise accepted by the Court. Lead Counsel is authorized to request from any person or entity requesting exclusion documentation sufficient to prove the information called for above.

15. Any person or entity who or which timely and validly requests exclusion in compliance with the terms stated in this Order and is excluded from the Settlement Class shall not be a Settlement Class Member, shall not be bound by the terms of the Settlement or any orders or judgments in the Action, and shall not receive any payment out of the Net Settlement Fund.

16. Any Settlement Class Member who or which does not timely and validly request exclusion from the Settlement Class in the manner stated in this Order: (a) shall be deemed to have waived his, her, or its right to be excluded from the Settlement Class; (b) shall be forever barred from requesting exclusion from the Settlement Class in this or any other proceeding; (c) shall be bound by the provisions of the Stipulation and Settlement and all proceedings, determinations, orders, and judgments in the Action, including, but not limited to, the Judgment or Alternate Judgment, if applicable, and the Releases provided for therein, whether favorable or unfavorable to the Settlement Class; and (d) will be barred from commencing, maintaining, or prosecuting any of the Released Plaintiff's Claims against any of the Defendants' Releasees, as more fully described in the Stipulation and Notice.

17. **Appearance and Objections at Settlement Fairness Hearing** – Any Settlement Class Member who or which does not request exclusion from the Settlement Class may enter an appearance in the Action, at his, her, or its own expense, individually or through counsel of his, her, or its own choice, by filing with the Court and delivering a notice of appearance to both Lead Counsel and Equifax's Counsel, at the addresses set forth in paragraph 18 below, such that it is received no later than twenty-one (21) calendar days prior to the Settlement

Fairness Hearing, or as the Court may otherwise direct. Any Settlement Class Member who or which does not enter an appearance will be represented by Lead Counsel.

18. Any Settlement Class Member who or which does not request exclusion from the Settlement Class may file a written objection to the proposed Settlement, the proposed Plan of Allocation, and/or Lead Counsel's motion for an award of attorneys' fees and Litigation Expenses and appear and show cause, if he, she, or it has any cause, why the proposed Settlement, the proposed Plan of Allocation, and/or Lead Counsel's motion for attorneys' fees and Litigation Expenses should not be approved; *provided, however*, that no Settlement Class Member shall be heard or entitled to contest the approval of the terms and conditions of the proposed Settlement, the proposed Plan of Allocation, and/or the motion for attorneys' fees and Litigation Expenses unless that person or entity has filed a written objection with the Court and served copies of such objection on Lead Counsel and Equifax's Counsel at the addresses set forth below such that they are received no later than twenty-one (21) calendar days prior to the Settlement Fairness Hearing.

Lead Counsel

Bernstein Litowitz Berger &
Grossmann LLP

Equifax's Counsel

King & Spalding LLP
Michael R. Smith, Esq.

James A. Harrod, Esq.
1251 Avenue of the Americas, 44th Floor
New York, NY 10020

B. Warren Pope
1180 Peachtree Street N.E.
Atlanta, GA 30309

19. Any objections, filings, and other submissions by the objecting Settlement Class Member must include: (1) the name of this proceeding, *In re Equifax Inc. Securities Litigation*, Case No. 1:17-cv-03463-TWT, or similar identifying words such as “Equifax Securities Litigation”; (2) the objector’s full name, current address, and telephone number; (3) the objector’s personal signature; (4) a statement providing the specific reasons for the objection, including a detailed statement of the specific legal and factual basis for each and every objection and whether the objection applies only to the objector, to a specific subset of the Settlement Class, or to the entire Settlement Class; (5) documents sufficient to prove membership in the Settlement Class, including documents showing the number of shares of publicly-traded Equifax common stock that the objecting Settlement Class Member (i) owned as of the opening of trading on February 25, 2016 and (ii) purchased/acquired and/or sold during the Class Period, as well as the dates, number of shares, and prices of each such purchase/acquisition and sale (documentation establishing membership in the Settlement Class must consist of copies of brokerage confirmation slips or monthly brokerage account statements, or an authorized statement from the objector’s broker containing the transactional

and holding information found in a broker confirmation slip or account statement); (6) a statement identifying by case name, case number, and court, all class action settlements to which the objector has objected in the previous five (5) years; (7) a statement as to whether the objector intends to appear at the Settlement Fairness Hearing, either in person or through a lawyer, and four dates between twenty-one (21) and seven (7) calendar days prior to the Settlement Fairness Hearing during which the objector is available to be deposed by counsel for the Parties; and (8) if the objector wants to appear and present evidence at the Settlement Fairness Hearing, a detailed description of any and all evidence the objector may offer at the hearing, including copies of any and all exhibits that the objector may introduce into evidence at the hearing, and the identify of any witnesses that the objector may call to testify at the hearing. If the objector is represented by a lawyer, the objector's written objection must also include: (9) the lawyer's name, address, and telephone number; and (10) statement indicating whether the lawyer will appear at the Settlement Fairness Hearing to present the objection on the objector's behalf. Additionally, if the objector is represented by a lawyer, and the lawyer intends to seek compensation for his or her services from anyone other than the objector, the written objection letter must include: (11) the identity of all lawyers that represent the objector, including any former or current lawyer who may be entitled to

compensation for any reason related to the objection; (12) a statement identifying all instances in which the lawyer or the lawyer's law firm objected to a class action settlement in the previous five (5) years, providing the case name, case number, and court; (13) a statement identifying any and all agreements or contracts that relate to the objection or the process of objecting—whether written or oral—between the objector, the objector's lawyer, and/or any other person or entity; (14) a description of the lawyer's legal background and prior experience in connection with class action litigation; and (15) a statement regarding whether the lawyer's compensation will be calculated on the basis of a lodestar, contingency, or other method; an estimate of the amount of fees to be sought; the factual and legal justification for any fees to be sought; the number of hours already spent by the lawyer and an estimate of the hours to be spent in the future; and the lawyer's hourly rate.

20. Any Settlement Class Member who wishes to be heard orally at the Settlement Fairness Hearing in opposition to the approval of the Settlement, the Plan of Allocation, or Lead Counsel's motion for an award of attorneys' fees and Litigation Expenses must also file a notice of appearance with the Court and serve it on Lead Counsel and on Equifax's Counsel at the addresses set forth in

paragraph 18 above so that it is received no later than twenty-one (21) calendar days prior to the Settlement Fairness Hearing.

21. Any Settlement Class Member who or which does not make his, her, or its objection in the manner provided herein shall be deemed to have waived his, her, or its right to object to any aspect of the proposed Settlement, the proposed Plan of Allocation, and Lead Counsel's motion for an award of attorneys' fees and Litigation Expenses and shall be forever barred and foreclosed from objecting to the fairness, reasonableness, or adequacy of the Settlement, the Plan of Allocation, or the requested attorneys' fees and Litigation Expenses, or from otherwise being heard concerning the Settlement, the Plan of Allocation, or the requested attorneys' fees and Litigation Expenses in this or any other proceeding.

22. **Stay and Temporary Injunction** – Until otherwise ordered by the Court, the Court stays all proceedings in the Action other than proceedings necessary to carry out or enforce the terms and conditions of the Stipulation. Pending final determination of whether the Settlement should be approved, the Court bars and enjoins Lead Plaintiff, and all other members of the Settlement Class, from commencing or prosecuting any and all of the Released Plaintiff's Claims against each and all of the Defendants' Releasees.

23. **Settlement Administration Fees and Expenses** – All reasonable costs incurred in identifying Settlement Class Members and notifying them of the Settlement as well as in administering the Settlement shall be paid as set forth in the Stipulation without further order of the Court.

24. **Settlement Fund** – The contents of the Settlement Fund held by Citibank, N.A. (which the Court approves as the Escrow Agent) shall be deemed and considered to be *in custodia legis* of the Court, and shall remain subject to the jurisdiction of the Court, until such time as they shall be distributed pursuant to the Stipulation and/or further order(s) of the Court.

25. **Taxes** – Lead Counsel is authorized and directed to prepare any tax returns and any other tax reporting form for or in respect to the Settlement Fund, to pay from the Settlement Fund any Taxes owed with respect to the Settlement Fund, and to otherwise perform all obligations with respect to Taxes and any reporting or filings in respect thereof without further order of the Court in a manner consistent with the provisions of the Stipulation.

26. **Termination of Settlement** – If the Settlement is terminated as provided in the Stipulation, the Settlement is not approved, or the Effective Date of the Settlement otherwise fails to occur, this Order shall be vacated and rendered null and void, and shall be of no further force and effect, except as otherwise

provided by the Stipulation, and this Order shall be without prejudice to the rights of Lead Plaintiff, the other Settlement Class Members, and Defendants, and Lead Plaintiff and Defendants shall revert to their respective positions in the Action as of immediately prior to the execution of the Term Sheet on November 16, 2019, as provided in the Stipulation.

27. **Use of this Order** – Neither this Order, the Term Sheet, the Stipulation (whether or not consummated), including the exhibits thereto and the Plan of Allocation contained therein (or any other plan of allocation that may be approved by the Court), the negotiations leading to the execution of the Term Sheet and the Stipulation, nor any proceedings taken pursuant to or in connection with the Term Sheet, the Stipulation, and/or approval of the Settlement (including any arguments proffered in connection therewith): (a) shall be offered against any of the Defendants' Releasees as evidence of, or construed as, or deemed to be evidence of any presumption, concession, or admission by any of the Defendants' Releasees with respect to the truth of any fact alleged by Lead Plaintiff or the validity of any claim that was or could have been asserted or the deficiency of any defense that has been or could have been asserted in this Action or in any other litigation, or with respect to the requirements of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23 and whether those requirements are satisfied in this case, or of any liability,

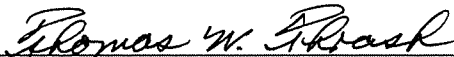
negligence, fault, or other wrongdoing of any kind of any of the Defendants' Releasees, or in any way referred to for any other reason as against any of the Defendants' Releasees, in any arbitration proceeding or other civil, criminal, or administrative action or proceeding, other than such proceedings as may be necessary to effectuate the provisions of the Stipulation; (b) shall be offered against any of the Plaintiff's Releasees as evidence of, or construed as, or deemed to be evidence of any presumption, concession, or admission by any of the Plaintiff's Releasees that any of their claims are without merit, that any of the Defendants' Releasees had meritorious defenses, or that damages recoverable under the Complaint would not have exceeded the Settlement Amount, or with respect to any liability, negligence, fault, or wrongdoing of any kind, or in any way referred to for any other reason as against any of the Plaintiff's Releasees, in any arbitration proceeding or other civil, criminal, or administrative action or proceeding, other than such proceedings as may be necessary to effectuate the provisions of the Stipulation; or (c) shall be construed against any of the Releasees as an admission, concession, or presumption that the consideration to be given under the Settlement represents the amount which could be or would have been recovered after trial; *provided, however*, that if the Stipulation is approved by the Court, the Parties and the Releasees and their respective counsel may refer to it to

effectuate the protections from liability granted thereunder or otherwise to enforce the terms of the Settlement.

28. **Supporting Papers** – Lead Counsel shall file and serve the opening papers in support of the proposed Settlement, the proposed Plan of Allocation, and Lead Counsel’s motion for an award of attorneys’ fees and payment of Litigation Expenses no later than thirty-five (35) calendar days prior to the Settlement Fairness Hearing; and reply papers, if any, shall be filed and served no later than seven (7) calendar days prior to the Settlement Fairness Hearing.

29. **Jurisdiction** – The Court retains jurisdiction to consider all further applications arising out of or connected with the proposed Settlement.

SO ORDERED this 25 day of February, 2020.



The Honorable Thomas W. Thrash, Jr.
United States District Judge